REMARKS

With respect to the objection to the flowcharts, the format used in Figures 2 and 4 at 18 and 20 is an accepted industry format. The Examiner contends that 18 and 20 indicate steps. Items 18 and 20 indicate the start of the flowchart. This is a correct way to draw a flowchart, as demonstrated, for example, in the attached flowchart format from Hewlett Packard. As pointed out by Hewlett Packard, the start of the flowchart is indicated by a circular indication. Because of the size of the text that needs to go into items 18 and 20, a circle simply does not work in this case.

Since there is no objectionable matter contained in the flowchart and the flowchart is in accordance with well accepted practice in the field, the rejection should be reconsidered.

The prior art rejection is based on the assertion that an expires attribute is a broad term. The "expires attribute" must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation. The office action interprets two different terms (execution time and lifespan) in the reference as both being expires attributes when these terms are different things, work differently, and one term is expressly called a time attribute that indicates whether or not the trigger has expired (see the reference at paragraph 13).

Given a broad interpretation, the expires attribute terminology in the claims could read on the fifth aspect of the cited reference (lifespan). But that fifth aspect does not allow for accessing the trigger after the lifespan of the trigger. It is expressly stated in paragraph 13 of the Blackketter reference that the trigger can only be accessed if it is still valid and has not expired pursuant to the lifespan feature. Thus, the cited reference teaches expressly away from the claimed invention.

The suggestion that the trigger can be accessed after its lifespan and that an execution time attribute is an expires attribute should be reconsidered. First, these positions are inconsistent with the reference itself, which cannot possibly have two different and inconsistent expires attributes. Clearly, the lifespan feature, which terminates the ability to access the trigger, is the expires attribute set forth in the claim and the Blackketter reference teaches away from allowing the trigger to be accessed after its lifespan is over.

Moreover, there is nothing to suggest that a trigger can be accessed after its execution time or after its lifespan is over. The assertion that, because the trigger has already been

accessed, it can be accessed after the execution time makes no sense. It is accessed on its execution time and there is no provision or ability within the reference to access the trigger at some later time. Assertions to the contrary are unsupported by the text in Blackketter and are inconsistent with the reasoning of the reference.

The assertion that the trigger in Blackketter does not expire as intended is noted, but the point is that the lifespan feature does expire as set forth in the specification and, therefore, precludes accessing the trigger thereafter. The execution time attribute is not an expires attribute and, even if it were somehow interpreted to be one (despite the inconsistent presence of the lifespan attribute), the execution time feature still does not provide any way to access a trigger after the specified execution time.

Therefore, a *prima facie* rejection is not made out.

Respectfully submitted,

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Flowchart Format

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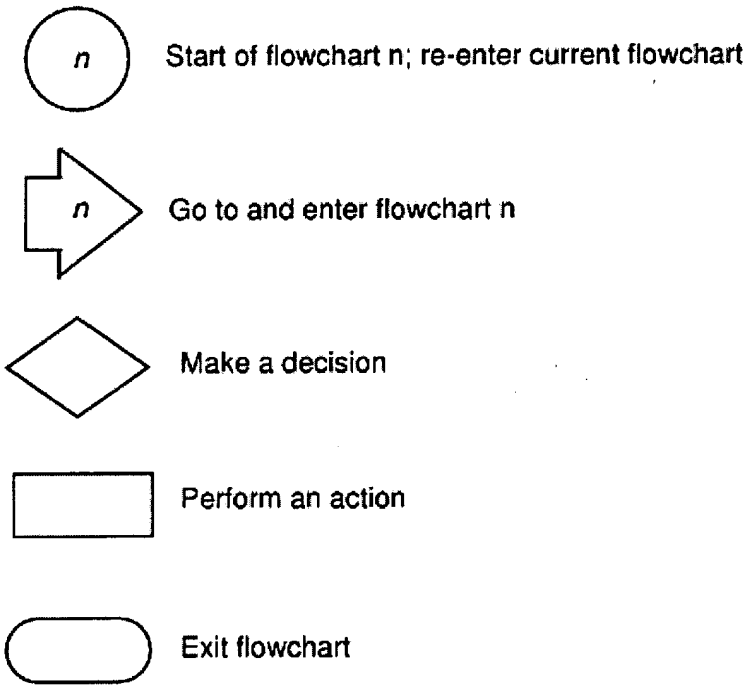
The flowcharts in this chapter each have a corresponding set of labeled explanations. You the flowcharts alone or follow the flowcharts and read the explanations for more detail. Th explanations are on the pages that follow each flowchart.

Figure 12-2. Flowchart Symbols



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